

Evaluation Results from New Jersey



PROJECT PARTNERS

QIC-AG partnered with the **Office of Adoption Operations within the State of New Jersey, Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency.**

CONTINUUM PHASE

Selective

INTERVENTION

CP&P implemented **Tuning in to Teens (TINT)**. TINT is an evidence-based emotion coaching program designed to proactively prepare parents to support their teens in managing the complex developmental tasks of adolescence by developing the youth's emotional intelligence.

STUDY DESIGN

Experimental: Randomized Controlled Trial

The target population was **children ages of 10 to 13 years old whose caregivers were receiving an adoption or Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) subsidy and were not open for DCF services. Children had either previously been in group care or were between the ages of 6 and 13 at the time of finalization.**

RESEARCH QUESTION

Will children currently between the ages of 10 and 13 who are receiving an adoption or Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) subsidy, are not open for services with DCF, and meet one of the following criteria: at the time of finalization were between the ages of 6 and 13, or were in group care while in foster care experience a reduction in post permanency discontinuity, improved wellbeing, and improved behavioral health if they receive Tuning in to Teens (TINT) compared to similar children who receive services as usual?

Findings



443 FAMILIES
ASSIGNED TO THE
COMPARISON GROUP



187
COMPARISON
GROUP CAREGIVERS
COMPLETED THE
OUTCOME SURVEY

769 FAMILIES
ASSIGNED TO THE
INTERVENTION GROUP

442 (57%)
SUCCESSFULLY
CONTACTED



62
TINT CAREGIVERS
COMPLETED 4+
SESSIONS AND THE
OUTCOME SURVEY

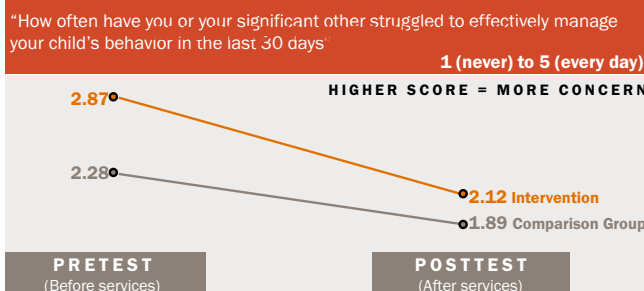
RECRUITMENT & PARTICIPATION

Families who participated in TINT were different than families who did not participate in the intervention. Specifically, families who received the intervention were:

- more likely to struggle to effectively manage their child's behavior; and
- less confident that they could meet their child's needs.

OUTCOMES

This study found no statistically significant differences between TINT families and comparison group families on primary outcomes but an improvement was observed in parents' felt ability to better manage their child's behavior. The figure below shows the slope of line is steeper for TINT families which suggests they improved more than families in the comparison group. Although this difference wasn't statistically significant, promising trends suggest that with additional time, statistically significant differences may emerge.



WHAT CAREGIVERS HAD TO SAY...

Adoption and guardianship was a positive experience!



"Adopting our son has been the single best decision we have made in our lives."

"Great experience. Would do it again if I had to."

It was also a challenging experience.

Many caregivers reported that having adopted or assumed guardianship of a child was challenging, particularly if the child had a mental health condition. Caregivers wrote that not only did caseworkers need to be "better equipped to help adoptive parents," but also shared a strong need for the improvement of the training required in order to become an adoptive parent or guardian. They pointed out that having more support from the child welfare system "especially during the teenage years" was essential.



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Funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Grant #90CO1122. The contents of this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the funders, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This information is in the public domain. Readers are encouraged to copy and share it, but please credit the QIC-AG.

The QIC-AG was funded through a five-year cooperative agreement between the Children's Bureau, Spaulding for Children, and its partners the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.